

*REMARKS/ARGUMENTS*

*The Restriction Requirement*

The restriction requirement requires Applicants to select one of the following groups of claims for examination:

Group 1 – claims 1-16, 22-32, and 43, directed to a screening method for a somatic nuclear reprogramming substance comprising contacting a somatic cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT gene with a test substance, as well as somatic cells,

Group 2 – claim 21, directed to a substance derived from ES cells with the NAT1 gene destroyed,

Group 3 – claims 33-41, directed to a selection method for ES-like cells comprising contacting somatic cells comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control region of an ECAT gene with a somatic cell nuclear reprogramming substance and selecting cells expressing the marker gene, and

Group 4 – claims 44-57 and 61-69, directed to a screening method for a substance for the maintenance of undifferentiated state and pluripotency of ES cells comprising contacting an ES cell comprising a marker gene operably linked to the expression control gene of an ECAT gene with a test substance and determining the expression of the marker gene.

*Applicants' Election*


Applicants elect, without traverse, the subject matter of Group 1 (i.e., claims 1-16, 22-32, and 43) for further examination.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue any non-elected subject matter that is ultimately canceled in the present application in one or more divisional applications in accordance with U.S. patent practice.

*Conclusion*

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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